

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 24, as follows:

A target setting process 103, on the basis of the colorimetric data on the patches, generates a target having the highest saturation for each of the six hues Y (Yellow), M (Magenta), C (Cyan), R (Red), G (Green), and B (Blue) as described later in detail in Fig. 9. Then, ~~A basic-4-color~~ a basic-4-color separation process 104, under the condition that the saturation is highest for each hue (the above targets), determines combinations of Y, M, C, and K and makes the combinations contents of a color separation table for a color transformation.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 15, as follows:

When the inks Y and K have relatively large signal values, then the total color material use amount is large as a whole. Accordingly, the line of the maximum total color material use amount appears on patch data as shown in the figure. Specifically, when the C and/or M, constituting the patches, has a ~~larger~~ larger signal value than the line of the maximum total color material use amount for C and/or M, the patch printed based on the combination of these signals is not accurately printed because of possible ink overflow. Thus, in the present embodiment, when the C and/or M, constituting the patches, has a ~~larger~~ larger signal value than the line of the maximum total color material use amount, and one of these patches exceeding the line is shown at A in the figure, then a conversion is executed, as shown below, so that the signal values for the patch A and the signal values

for patches having the same ratio of the signal values C, M as the ratio of C to M for the patch A are compressed by using the distance Dist_A from an origin 0 to the patch shown by A and the distance Dist_B from the origin 0 to a point B where a straight line joining the origin 0 with the patch A crosses the line for the maximum total color material use amount. Specifically, the signal values for the patches located on the line joining the origin 0 with the patch A, which include the one within the maximum total color material use amount line, are compressed at the same compression rate.

REMARKS

This Amendment corrects some minor typographical errors. Entry and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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